



## State of Arizona

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# Governor Jan Brewer Hails Success in Securing Funding for Arizona Forest Restoration Initiative

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today welcomed the recent news that Arizona will receive \$2 million for Arizona's Four Forest Restoration Initiative, located on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Kaibab, Coconino and Tonto National forests, which will focus on the restoration of the southwestern ponderosa pine ecosystem and treat up to 50,000 acres per year.

"The Four Forests Restoration Initiative stands out as a national-caliber model collaborative effort to accelerate forest restoration across northern Arizona with strong social, industry, and science support," said Governor Brewer. "It will create much-needed jobs in rural Arizona and help bolster rural economic growth now and into the future. I would like to thank the Arizona Forest Health Council (FHC) for their leadership in this effort by helping bring the appropriate stakeholders together and vetting the proposal."

As one of nine states to receive funding for U.S. Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects, Arizona's award of \$2 million is the largest amount. The work will include prescribed fire and management of natural fires for restoration objectives. Mechanical thinning will also engage new industry to insure that nearly all of the cost of removal of the thinning byproducts is covered by the value of the products.

Arizona Log and TimberWorks was recently awarded a \$350,000 Forest Products Lab grant from the USDA Forest Service to purchase equipment that will allow it to produce roundwood guardrail posts. Governor Brewer delivered remarks last week at the retooling ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In order to revitalize the forest industry, Governor Brewer feels it is important that markets exist or can be created to utilize the small-diameter wood that is being removed from forest restoration projects. This type of utilization would be ideal for the type of wood that needs to be removed in order to protect our local communities and our forests.

"This is a win-win by cleaning up the forests and removing the dangerous kindling and turning it into a useful commodity by creating products for the state and putting people back to work," said Governor Brewer.

Wood collected from mechanical thinning as part of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative could be used to manufacture roundwood guardrail posts as approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. In collaboration with the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association, the Arizona

Department of Transportation has begun discussions on the possibilities of utilizing small-diameter roundwood for roadway guardrail systems.

The nine projects around the country, funded at \$10 million, were selected based upon the recommendations of a 15-member Advisory Committee.

Additional information about the program can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/>.

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